AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or a complement thereof.
- 2. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
 - 3. (Canceled)
- 4. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.
 - 5. (Canceled)
- 6. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:1 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site.
 - 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

- 9. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 9.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.
- 12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

13.-49. (Canceled)

- 50. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN-γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and differentiating Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.
- 51. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site in DNA.

- 54. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
- 55. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of at least 700 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or a complement thereof.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.
- 58. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 700 nucleotides which is complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.
 - 59. (Canceled)
 - 60. (Canceled)
- 61. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a constitutive promotor.
- 62. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising an inducible promotor.

63. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 9, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.

- 64. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFNy, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.
- 65. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 or 6, wherein the identity is determined by the BLAST program using the default Blastn matrix.
 - 66. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.
- 67. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of <u>claim 53</u> or 55 <u>claim 51 or 58</u>.
 - 68. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 66, which is an expression vector.
 - 69. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 68.
- 70. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 69 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.
- 71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 70, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.
 - 72. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 67, which is an expression vector.

73. (Previously Presented) A host cell containing the vector of claim 72.

- 74. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 73 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.
- 75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.
- 76. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
- 77. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of <u>claim 53</u> elaim 51 further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
- 78. (Currently Amended) The expression vector of <u>claim 68</u> elaim 66, comprising a constitutive promotor.
- 79. (Currently Amended) The expression vector of <u>claim 68</u> elaim 66, comprising an inducible promotor.
- 80. (Currently Amended) The expression vector of <u>claim 68</u> elaim 66, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.
- 81. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a constitutive promotor.

82. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising an inducible promotor.

- 83. (Previously Presented) The expression vector of claim 72, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.
- 84. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 53 elaim 51, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN-γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and differentiating Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.
- 85. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.
- 86. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of <u>claim 53 or 58</u> elaim 51 or 58, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.
- 87. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, or a complement thereof.
- 88. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof.
- 89. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:3, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.

90. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule, which has at least 90% nucleotide identity with SEQ ID NO:3 over its full length, and which encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.

- 91. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 in 6X SSC at 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2X SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C under stringent conditions, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds a consensus T-box site in DNA.
- 92. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide that binds to a consensus T-box site in DNA.
- 93. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a fragment of at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, or a complement thereof.
- 94. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising at least 500 nucleotides which is complementary to SEQ ID NO:3.
 - 95. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 89.
 - 96. (New) The vector of claim 95, which is an expression vector.
 - 97. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 96.
 - 98. (New) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell

of claim 96 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.

99. (New) The method of claim 98, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.

- 100. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 89, wherein the polypeptide has at least one activity selected from the group consisting of: inducing IFN- γ production in CD4+ cells, inducing Th1-associated cytokine production, inhibiting production of IL-2, and differentiating Thp cells and Th2 cells into Th1 cells.
- 101. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 89, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
- 102. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 89, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable substance.
 - 103. (New) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising a constitutive promotor.
 - 104. (New) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising an inducible promotor.
- 105. (New) The expression vector of claim 96, comprising a tissue-specific regulator element.
- 106. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 100, wherein the Th1-associated cytokine is selected from the group consisting of IFNγ, TNF, and Lymphotoxin.

107. (New) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 92.

- 108. (New) The vector of claim 107, which is an expression vector.
- 109. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 108.
- 110. (New) A method for producing a T-bet protein comprising culturing the host cell of claim 109 in a suitable medium until a T-bet protein is produced.
- 111. (New) The method of claim 110, further comprising isolating the T-bet protein from the medium or the host cell.
- 112. (New) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 92, further comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.
- 113. (New) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of any one of claims 87, 90, or 93.
 - 114. (New) A host cell containing the vector of claim 113.